

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL DURBAN

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DEPT PASS AFL-CIO
CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SF, US, UK, PINR
SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF NICHOLAS WIEHAHN ON NECESSARY CHANGES IN
LABOR LEGISLATION

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1453 (NOTAL)

1. WITH REFERENCE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING STATEMENTS
BY LABOR ADVISOR WIEHAHN DURING HIS TRAVELS IN THE UNITED STATES
AND EUROPE, THE FOLLOWING APPEARED IN THE JUNE 16 EDITION OF THE
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ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY THE STAR.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO MAKE THE
CHANGES IN ITS LABOUR LEGISLATION NECESSARY TO BRING IT INTO LINE
WITH THE DEMANDS OF THE MODERN WORLD.

3. THIS THEME HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY HAMMERED HOME TO PROFESSOR NIC

WIEHAHN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO SA'S
LABOUR LEGISLATION, BY SCORES OF LABOUR EXPERTS HE HAS SEEN DURING
HIS TOUR OF EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

4. THIS I HAVE FOUND EVERYWHERE, HE SAID YESTERDAY. EVERYBODY
IS CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO US, AND THIS QUESTION-
'DO YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO MAKE CHANGES?'-- INVARIABLY POPPED UP
EVERY TIME."

5. BUT THE EXPERTS--THEY INCLUDED CABINET MINISTERS, HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, TRADE UNION LEADERS, COMPANY DIRECTORS
AND HEADS OF RESEARCH INSTITUTES -- WERE WARY OF SAYING WHAT
SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD DO.

6. "NOWHERE HAVE I FOUND ANY SUGGESTION, OR PROPOSAL, AS TO HOW
WE MUST SOLVE OUR PROBLEM," HE SAID.

7. PROFESSOR WIEHAHN, WHO IS LABOUR ADVISER TO MR S.P. BOTHA, THE
MINISTER OF LABOUR, HAS SO FAR VISITED WEST GERMANY, HOLLAND,
BRITAIN, THE US AND CANADA SINCE LEAVING SOUTH AFRICA IN MAY.
HE WILL GO ON TO SWEDEN, BELGIUM, FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND BEFORE
RETURNING HOME ON JULY 10.

8. HIS TOUR HAD A FIVE-FOLD PURPOSE, HE SAID, THE FIRST WAS TO MAKE
CONTACT WITH LEADERS IN THE FIELD AND "FIND WAYS OF KEEPING COM-
MUNICATION GOING FOR THE FUTURE."

9. THE SECOND WAS TO GIVE PEOPLE ABROAD AN IDEA OF WHAT WAS BEING
DONE IN SOUTH AFRICA. THIRDLY, HE WANTED TO EXAMINE THE LATEST
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SYSTEMS IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES. FOURTHLY, IT WAS TO SEE WHAT
RESEARCH WAS BEING DONE, AND FINALLY TO HAVE A GOOD LOOK AT
TRAINING FACILITIES.

10. PROFESSOR WIEHAHN SAID HE HAD HAD A "VERY GOOD RECEPTION"
DURING HIS TOUR, AND HAD ENCOUNTERED NO HOSTILITY. END QUOTE.
KIRBY

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NNN

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